FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

27 JULY 1984

Iran-Iraq War

An Iraqi military spokesman denied in a statement to INA that an Iraqi fighter plane was shot down by Iranian forces. He declared that the Iraqi Air Force did not carry out any combat missions and described the "series of lies" by Iran as an attempt to mislead the Iranian people and boost the morale of its unsuccessful Air Force. The Iranian Joint Staff Command cited by IRNA had earlier announced that an Iranian Air Force plane had downed an Iraqi Super Etendard over the Persian Gulf.

Lebanon

Karami Damascus Visit — Prime Minister Rashid Karami returned to Beirut after 3 hours of talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus, Beirut radio reported. The talks were also attended by Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Prime Minister 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm, and Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar'. Karami stated in remarks broadcast by the radio that Syria and Lebanon are working in "one direction with one policy toward common goals," that both countries' interests are "identical," and that both share a "common fate and destiny." Damascus radio reported that the talks dealt with the situation in Lebanon, especially the security situation in Beirut and in the north, and with the Israeli occupation in the south. Al-Asad declared Syria's readiness to "cooperate in whatever Lebanon requests," the radio added.

Tripoli Clashes — "Guarded calm" prevailed in Tripoli on the morning of 27 July following clashes between rival factions that left 22 persons dead and 127 wounded, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. A cease-fire agreement went into effect on the evening of 26 July, the radio added.

Israel

Election Results — The final unofficial results of the 23 July elections for the 11th Knesset, including the soldiers' votes counted on 26 July, give the Alignment 44 seats, the Likud 41 seats, and 13 smaller parties and blocs 35 seats, Jerusalem television announced. The final official results will be announced on 31 July, according to Central Election Committee members cited by Jerusalem radio. A radio correspondent theorized that the Likud will be able to compile a 61-member coalition if it retains its present coalition partners as well as SHAS and KAKH. The Alignment, on the other hand, will only be able to form a coalition that will block the Likud if the Alignment receives support from Yahad and TAMI, the correspondent added.

Katyusha Attack — Two Katyusha missiles were fired at Bet She'an by "terrorists" from Jordanian territory, despite the "preventive measures, the patrols, and the ambushes" by the Jordanian Army, Jerusalem radio reported. There were no casualties, the radio added. According to a Palestinian military spokesman cited by SANA, the missiles hit and set fire to their targets, killing or wounding a number of "enemy elements."

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Resolution Pledges To Fight 'Hirelings'

LD270614 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0440 GMT 27 Jul 84

[Text] Kabul, July 26, BAKHTAR: "We consider it our sacred duty to struggle against the shameless interventions and aggressions of imperialist forces and their criminal hirelings."

This was stated in a resolution passed by an assembly of elders of the subcounties of Nerkh, Jelriz [spelling as received] and Maydan Shar of Vardak Province.

The resolution also calls upon the various nationalities of the province to form the defender groups of revolution.

The heads of various nationalities of the province pledged to cooperate firmly with the party and the government of the DRA.

Actions Against Counterrevolutionaries Succeed

LD261643 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Jul 84

[Text] In line with crushing counterrevolutionary and treacherous bands who, at the instructions of their masters disrupt the peaceful and secure life of our toiling people, a seriesof operations were recently mounted in the villages of Ghazni Province by the vigilant security forces. A number of rebels were crushed. Seven of the rebels were captured, along with their weapons.

Also as a result of an operation which was carried out in the [name indistinct] village, Badakhshan Province, a number of rebels were crushed and nine assorted weapons and a communications unit were seized from them.

According to another report, during an operation in the Qara Bagh district, Kabul Province, a number of armed rebels were crushed and an amount of arms and equipment were seized from them.

Quoting responsible security sources in Baghlan and Nangarhar Provinces, a BIA correspondent reports that as a result ofoperations mounted recently by the militant vigilant security forces in the villages of three provinces, a number of rebels were crushed and a number wounded. A quantity of weapons and equipment was seized from them.

Mujahidin Clash With Government Forces

Parwan, Balhk, Konarha Battles

BK261610 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Jul 84

[Text] There are reports of continued fighting between Afghan mujahidin and the Soviet-Karmal forces in various parts of Afghanistan. Afghan mujahidin are reported to have killed a large number of Soviet-Karmal soldiers and caused material losses in their recent operations in Parwan, Balkh, and Konarha Provinces. They also destroyed a military post in the Moqor area in Ghazni Province and killed a number of Soviet-Karmal soldiers.

20 Afghan-Soviet Casualties

LD262043 Riyadh SPA in English 1912 GMT 26 Jul 84

[Text] Islamabad, July 26, SPA — Twenty Soviet-Afghan troops were killed and a tank and three military trucks were destroyed July 15 when mujahidin attacked a communist column on Mazar-e-Sharif-Sheberghan highway in northern Afghanistan close to Soviet borders, AGENCY AFGHAN PRESS (AAP) reported here today.

In another report AAP said mujahidin had wiped out a communist military post on July 13 in Moqor area of Ghazni Province.

Soviet in retaliation bombed Moqor, but according to AAP, mujahidin ground fire forced Soviet MIG's to retreat without causing much damage to resistance positions or civilians.

Gandhi: 'Outside Forces' Work To Weaken Country

BK261005 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 26 Jul 84

[Text] The prime minister has said that some outside forces are at work to weaken the country. She said these forces have been encouraging some elements within the country to harm our interests. Mrs Gandhi was addressing a group of ex-servicemen from Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Delhi who called on her in New Delhi today. She said the demand for a separate Sikh state was not raised by anybody in the country but by a few rich people settled abroad. She asked who will benefit if the country is disintegrated.

The prime minister said whatever happened in Punjab is painful. It not only hurt the feelings of Sikhs alone, but the entire country. Mrs Gandhi pointed out that the Sikh religion had its birth in India and we have as much respect for it as we have for the others. She said the need of the hour is to maintain brotherhood and friendship.

About center-state relations, Mrs Gandhi said only a strong center can held the states in their developments. Mrs Gandhi said she is prepared for any sacrifice for the benefit of the country and its people. She praised the armymen for their role in defending the unity of the country.

Gandhi Says Country Faces Danger From All Sides

BK261245 Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 21 Jul 84 p 1

[From S. Rajappa]

[Excerpt] Trivandrum, July 20 — At the headquarters of the newly formed Southern Air Command of the Indian Air Force, the fifth in the country, Mrs Gandhi said today that with the increasing militarization of the Indian Ocean, the country faced danger from all sides.

The Southern Command will take over the air defence of the entire peninsula and the seas surrounding it and the island territories, relieving pressure on the overworked Central Air Command based in Allahabad.

Mrs Gandhi observed that the Himalayas and the western borders "are no longer the only vulnerable areas." The country faced danger from all around — land, sea, north, south, east and west. It was to remedy a lacuna in the air defence of the country that the decision was taken to establish the Southern Air Command with headquarters here.

Though India pursued a policy of peace, the prime minister said, it was not entirely within the powers of one country to avoid war. "We can only say that we will not commit aggression, but we have to be alert, vigilant and fully prepared to meet any aggression committed against us."

Mrs Gandhi said the three wings of the Armed Forces had served the nation well both in war and in peace. She lauded the role played by the Air Force in the northeast in time of floods and other natural calamities.

The government's policy, she said was to make the country self-reliant in defence production. The aim should be to make essential equipment indigenously and if anything was to be imported, to get them on "our terms."

Mrs Gandhi said factors other than foreign aggression were at work, posing a real threat to the unity and integrity of the nation. The recent growth of religious fundamentalism and the raising of casteist, communal religious and chauvinistic slogans could destroy the hard-earned freedom, she warned and emphasized the need to be vigilant against the divisive forces.

Mrs Gandhi hoped that the commissioning of the Southern Air Command would fulfil a long-felt need brought about by international situation.

Mr R. Venkataraman, defence minister, described the setting up of the Air Command as an important milestone in the history of the Indian Air Force.

Mr K. Karunakaran, Kerala Chief Minister thanked the Prime Minister for stationing the Air Command in Trivandrum.

AFP: Zail Singh Speaks on Unity, Integrity of India

OW262046 Hong Kong AFP in English 2034 GMT 26 Jul 84

[Text] New Delhi, July 26 (AFP) — Indian President Zail Singh said today that the country's unity and integrity would be maintained at any cost, and "no force on earth can break India," PRESS TRUST OF INDIA reported.

Mr Zail Singh, who was speaking at a function in Hyderabad, capital of southen Andhra Pradesh, called for a war against forces which sought to divide people on the basis of caste, language and region.

The president said that if such forces did not relent "we cannot sit with our fingers crossed."

The president was apparently referring to the demand by certain people belonging the Sikh community for "Khalistan" or Sikh homeland.

Mr Zail Singh was the first high dignitary to visit the Golden Temple in Amritsar, in Punjab after the Army assault on the holiest Sikh shrine early last month.

There were rumours that he was unhappy with the Army action. He however supported the government's action and condemned the Sikh movement, saying religion was above politics and that the two should not be mixed up.

The Sikh party Akali Dal are demanding greater autonomy for Punjab state. The movement led to the Army action on the Sikh shrine which resulted in the death of 650 people, including 92 soldiers.

Coverage of Home Minister Rao's Statements

On Jammu, Kashmir Situation

BK261025 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 26 Jul 84

[Text] The center has expressed concern over the nefarious designs and activities in Jammu and Kashmir of some elements seeking to undermine the country's unity and integrity. Responding to a calling attention notice by Mr Ramnand Yadev, Congress-I, and others, the home minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, said that in this sensitive border state, peace and order must prevail. Mr Rao appealed to the members to view the recent developments in the state in the right perspective. The minister recalled that certain elements had been indulging in antinational and secessionist activities since the later half of 1983. Their activities were in the form of demonstrations, speeches, strikes, slogan mongering, causing bomb explosions and issuing threats to life and property of public men, media men, and others.

Mr Rao said that though All India Sikh Students Federation was declared an unlawful association in March this year, its objectionable activities continued in the state. Other extremists also joined hands with them. These activities made a common cause with antinational, secessionist, and communal elements in the state even after the action by the security forces in Punjab. They attacked a number of government buildings and religious places.

The minister added that for the past 1 year, the center had been impressing upon the the state government to take firm action against the antinational elements. However, the action taken by the state government was inadequate and often belated. The activities of extremists continued unabetted. This included the hijacking of an Indian Airlines aircraft, he added.

Mr Ramnand Yadev, Congress-I, said that the events and developments in the state of Jammu and Kashmir must be viewed in keeping the national interest in view. The discussion is continuing. A similar statement was made in the Lok Sabha by Mr Venkatsubbiah.

On Assam, Border Work

BK261405 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 26 Jul 84

[Text] The home minister told the Rajya Sabha that the government is prepared to consider any practical proposal for solving the foreigners issue in Assam. In reply to a question, Mr Narasimha Rao said we are hopeful of a favorable condition for a fruitful dialogue with the agitation leaders in Assam.

In reply to another question, he said the survey for erecting barbed wire fencing [at the Bangladesh border] will be taken up as soon as possible. The work cannot be taken during the monsoon. India's stand on the issue has been made clear to Dhaka.

On Kashmir Ministry Dismissal

BK261628 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Jul 84

[Excerpt] The home minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao has said that the recent antinational and secessionist activities in Jammu and Kashmir have underscored the need to guard the unity, integrity and security of the country. Replying to a calling attention notice by Ramnand Yadev, Congress-I, and others in the Rajya Sabha on the recent developments in the state, Mr Narasimha Rao said that the debate brought out in loud and clear terms the concensus among all sections of the house for the country's integrity.

Replying to opposition's charge, Mr Narasimha Rao asserted that no constitutional impropriety was committed by the governor in dismissing Dr Farooq Abdullah's government [in Kashmir] which had lost the support of the majority in the legislature. He said that Kashmir has a special status in our Constitution and we must respect it. We cannot discuss the governor's action because we are bound by certain constitutional limitations. The minister gave examples of violent incidents which took place during Dr Farooq Abdullah's rule and said that these were [word indistinct]. Only a handful of people were behind them. The vast majority of the people was for the integrity and unity with the rest of the country.

Editorial Views Replacement of Home Minister

BK261233 Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 21 Jul 84 p 6

[Editorial: "No Clear Purpose"]

[Text] If Mr P.C. Sethi has been replaced as home minister because of his inadequacy in handling the Punjab problem, this should have been done long ago. As the Akali agitation and extremist activity became increasingly unmanageable, he was shown up to be not merely incompetent. But dangerously incoherent. He caused the government not a little embarrassment by his statement regarding a constitutional amendment. Obviously he was not clear in his mind as to how far the government was prepared to go; as was later disclosed, the Akalis had not merely asked for a textual alteration but for a change allowing a separate personal law. Mr Sethi's subsequent statement that he had made no commitment did not enhance the Government's reputation for clarity and decisiveness. Nor was it, on another occasion, necessary for him to give the assurance that the Army would not enter the Golden Temple complex. The only plea he can advance in self-defence is that he was in no position to decide; even the Cabinet committee on Punjab may not have been the final authority; perhaps the major decisions, including the decision to let things drift, rested with the prime minister herself.

The position is unlikely to change; all that may have happened in recent weeks is that certain younger members of the ruling party have become more closely involved in the decision-making process. If so it is difficult to see what Mr Narasimha Rao, despite his well-deserved reputation for quiet efficiency, can

achieve. If there are no signs of reconciliation, the government alone is not to blame; but there is little evidence of any imaginative effort on its part to restore understanding and trust — not even of any serious interest. Mr Narasimha Rao may be helpless in the face of petty political considerations. And the Ministry of External Affairs will be deprived of assured guidance, for Mrs Gandhi surely will have no time to attend to details. This will be unfortunate even at a time when domestic compulsions, with a general election due in six months' time, are far more pressing than the need for any foreign policy initiative or response. Still more regrettable is the decision to change the stewardship of the Planning Ministry when the Seventh Plan is being given final shape. Mr Sethi has done a variety of jobs in the last few years; if another portfolio had to be found for him now, it should have been any but planning. The prime minister may have other uses for Mr S.B. Chavan, but the immediate reallocation should have had a clearer purpose.

Extra Forces Deployed at Bangladesh Border
BK261015 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 26 Jul 84

[Text] One additional battalion of the border Security Force has been deployed on the Tripura-Bangladesh border to prevent infiltration. The minister of state for home, Mrs Ram Dulari Sinha, informed the Rajya Sabha today that, in addition, five companies of the Central Reserve Police Force made available to the state government for Panchayat [local] elections have been allowed to be retained. The minister admitted that there has been some increase in the unlawful and antinational activities of the extremists in Tripura this year as compared to last year.

Day Curfew Lifted in Hyderabad Old City
BK270926 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Jul 84

[Text] In Hyderabad, day curfew has been lifted in the old city following steady improvement in the situation. A police spokesman said this morning there were no untoward incidents last night.

Concern Expressed to Britain Over London Fire
BK270928 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Jul 84

[Text] The Indian High Commission in London has conveyed its serious concern to the British Government over Monday's incident in Southhall. The premises of a Punjabi weekly were burned down and its editor seriously injured in the incident. Police are investigating.

Plan To Build Mirage Aircraft Domestically Scrapped
BK270934 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Jul 84

[Text] The government has decided against manufacturing Mirage-2000 aircraft under license in India. The defense minister, Mr R. Venkatarman, informed the Lok Sabha that the decision has been taken after examining all available options. He said under the contract signed with French manufacturers, 40 Mirage aircraft are to be supplied to the Indian Air Force. Deliveries are to begin this year.

Agreement Reached With FRG Firm on Helicopters
BK241220 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] An agreement has been concluded with a West German firm on the design and development of a twin-engined advanced light helicopter. The defense minister, Mr Venkataraman told the Rajya Sabha today that the 7-year agreement envisages that the first prototype will be ready in about 4 years time. He said the Indian-made helicopters would be delivered to the service in the early 1990's.

In reply to a separate question, Mr Venkataraman said the first prototype of the main battle tank has been evaluated by an Army team. Further development work is now under way.

FRG Release of Sikh Terrorist Condemned
BK261617 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Jul 84

[Text] Over 75 Congress-I members of Parliament have strongly condemned the release of the proclaimed terrorist Talwinder Singh by the Federal Republic of Germany. In a statement in New Delhi today, they said this had constituted a totally unwarranted interference in the internal affairs of a friendly country. The West German Government by its action provided open encouragement to extremist and secessionist forces. The statement said the action became all the more condemnable as it was based on what the government termed as developments in Punjab.

UN Envoy, Perez de Cuellar Discuss Afghanistan

BK261040 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 26 Jul 84

[Text] At the United Nations, the Pakistan ambassador, Mr S. Shah Nawaz, has discussed the Afghanistan question with the UN secretary general, Mr Perez de Cuellar. The UN chief executive said that he remains hopeful of finding a solution to the crisis resulting from the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. He briefed the Pakistan ambassador of impressions he gathered during his recent visit to Moscow about finding a solution to the Afghanistan problem. The Pakistan ambassador also discussed with the UN secretary general some key issues, including the Iran-Iraq war and the Middle East question.

Former PIA Pilots Join Iranian, Saudi Airline

GF231050 Karachi DAWN in English 18 Jul 84 p 4

[Excerpts] Karachi, July 17 — Eight former PIA [Pakistan International Airlines] pilots who were retired or removed from service under MLR [Martial Law Regulation] 52 have joined Iran Air. All the eight senior pilots, with flying experience of over 10,000 hours each, have left Karachi for Tehran to take up their new assignments. They were flying airbuses, jumbo jets and Boeings during their service with PIA. In Iran, they are expected to undertake the hajj operation, piloting about 150,000 Iranian pilgrims from Iranian cities to Jidda. Meanwhile, about 100 PIA pilots are reported to have applied for jobs in Saudia, the Saudi Arabian Airlines, where the salary offered is of about US$7,000 per month, plus accommodation and education of two children anywhere in the world.

It is learnt that some of them intend to join Saudia only on deputation. But many others may seek retirement if the deputation request is turned down. Aviation sources said Saudia needs a large number of commercial pilots on account of a major expansion in its fleet.

Iran Air, on the other hand, needs pilots to replace Iranian fliers who have deserted the airlines. Both airlines' preference for Pakistani pilots is stated to be for a host of factors including their proficiency and reputation, as well as familiarity with the aircraft owned by Saudia and Iran Air.

An additional factor is that both Saudia and Iran Air operate on sectors where PIA pilots have been operating for years.

Canadian Decision on Banned Equipment Noted

BK240816 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] A Canadian high court has dismissed allegations against three engineers from Montreal. They were charged with supplying banned electronic equipment to Pakistan to be used in nuclear installations. The court dismissed all 11 allegations against them.

Editorial Examines Gulf War, Islamic Conference

GF221938 Karachi DAWN in English 19 Jul 84 p 7

[Editorial: "New Hope for the Gulf"]

[Text] The reported Iranian offer to the member-countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) for direct talks on ways to prevent further escalation of the Iran-Iraq war is a refreshing and hopeful development in the midst of distressing reports of continuing skirmishes in a pointless, debilitating conflict. Even though the reported visit of the Iranian Deputy foreign minister to Saudi Arabia and Qatar is denied in Tehran, last week's visit of the Iranian foreign minister to Syria to discuss the Gulf war is confirmed; so is the invitation extended by Saudi Arabia to the speaker of the Iranian Majlis to visit that country. There is also no doubt about the receipt of the Iranian message, bearing the offer, in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. All this is indeed a far cry from the oft-repeated Iranian stance branding the GCC states as allies of Iraq, with the accompanying threat of possible attacks on the shipping of these states. Iran is also reported to be not very appreciative of the peace moves on behalf of the Organisation of Islamic Conference. Yet, one member of the ICO committee, Mr Yasir 'Arafat, seeking to contain the conflict has volunteered the information that he has "exchanged correspondence (on the subject) with officials in Tehran". There is, thus, reason to believe that for the first time since the conflict flared up over four years ago, a serious move is afoot to end the protracted war through direct negotiations. In spite of the initial posturing and sparring, the parties concerned seem likely to veer round to some kind of negotiations before long.

The reasons for a display of flexibility in Tehran are not far to seek. The much-expected, and much-published, "final" push against Iraq has not come off — whatever be the explanation. A land offensive perhaps might have appeared unfeasible at a time when the Iranian position on the waterways in the Gulf remains exposed. Iran has recently shut down a part of its major oil installation at Khark Island, which was damaged in an Iraqi air strike. The human dimension of a massive land offensive towards Basra and Baghdad, too, could not have escaped any serious calculation, since such a move would inevitably involve terrifying casualties for the attacking side. Iraq has demonstrated its ability to maintain its pressure against the oil terminal. Similarly, Saudi Arabia has ordered its F-15's and AWACS into round-the-clock vigil and operational readiness and has made known its determination to protect its shipping in the Gulf under all circumstances. An Iranian Phantom was recently destroyed for its alleged intrusion into the Saudi Arabia air space. With the navies of the U.S. and other western powers cruising close to the Gulf, and reports of patrolling by U.S. planes from nearby aircraft carriers, a widening of the conflict through some accident or miscalculation cannot be ruled out. All this may have instilled a new awareness of the realities in Tehran and other capitals. Whatever the motivation or the contents of the Iranian offer, it is a good basis to work on for an early advance towards the eventual termination of the conflict, which nobody should want to continue now. It is time all peacemakers, whether from the UN, NAM [Nonaligned Movement], or the ICO got on with the job and stepped up their efforts until the achievement of the objective, which must be the prayer of every concerned person — Iranian or Arab or any other. The part that ICO can play in

promoting a hopeful development for direct negotiations between the combatants and their supporters can hardly be overemphasised. Knowing the complexities involved, direct initiative by the parties concerned for peace has the best chance of succeeding where other efforts have failed before. The best option for the ICO now is to keep in close contact with the current peace exploration efforts and to play its due role in helping things towards a resolution of the conflict.

Relations With PRC, USSR Examined

GF241405 Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 20 Jul 84 p 3

[Editorial: Pakistan, the Soviet Union, and China]

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, will visit the PRC next week. He will be holding talks with his Chinese counterpart on regional matters. It is also possible that he may meet with the PRC premier and president. This will be his sixth visit to the PRC since Sahabzada Yaqub Khan took over as foreign minister 2 years ago. However, his upcoming visit will have more significance because India has recently carried out certain military operations along the Karakoram Highway in Kashmir, which was built as a joint effort by Pakistan and the PRC. And one cannot also rule out any future operations by India in that region. As far as Pakistan is concerned, it has made it well known that it does not want war. The PRC has also been advising Pakistan that war should be avoided. The PRC for its part has also been trying to improve its relations with India in order to usher in a lasting era of good relations that would help strengthen peace. However, the PRC and Pakistan, despite their desire to avoid war, feel that India is continuing to block any improvement in relations. From Pakistan's point of view, the Indian prime minister's attitude is creating apprehension in Pakistan. In Beijing, the Pakistan foreign minister will discuss these matters. It is expected that the PRC as well would not like to see the Karakoram Highway, which it build jointly with Pakistan at great expense, endangered. In this regard, if India continues, the PRC is expected to react against such aggression and will not remain a disinterested bystander. In this respect, it is in the interest of both Pakistan and the PRC to take measures to prevent any possible Indian aggression along the Karakoram Highway. Measures to restrain India would help prevent war. Sahabzada Yaqub Khan's visit is aimed at preventing war.

However, it is possible that India will view this visit in a different light and may try to make the Soviets believe that Pakistan and the PRC are hatching a new plot. It is also possible that although India may not comment on the visit, the Soviet Union may look with suspicion at the upcoming visit of Sahabzada Yaqub Khan to China. At any rate, although the Soviet Union is wary of Pakistan-U.S. relations, it certainly is more concerned about any futher improvement in Pakistan-PRC relations.

This is only natural. Unfortunately, Pakistan-PRC policies have been in conflict with those of India and the Soviet Union on several occasions. It is most unfortunate that the changes in Afghanistan have further aggravated this conflict. However, Pakistan has always kept in mind the need to lessen this conflict and truly wishes to improve relations with the Soviet Union. While the foreign minister is visiting China, the secretary for foreign affairs is scheduled to visit the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. This is being done to prove that Pakistan not only wants to have good relations with the PRC, but also wants better relations with the Soviet Union. It is for this very reason that the secretary for foreign affairs, Mr Niaz A. Naik, will visit the Soviet Union during the last week of July and hold detailed talks with Soviet Foreign Ministry officials on the situation in this region. He will probably assure the Soviets that Pakistan wants peace and not war. However, as far as the problem of Afghanistan is concerned, the talks in Geneva are making progress and a meeting between the foreign ministers of Pakistan and Afghanistan is expected. The economic relations between Pakistan and the Soviet Union are developing and the possibility of a further expansion of these relations was discussed during the last visit to Moscow by the Pakistan's finance minister, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

Under these circumstances, it is expected that the foreign minister's visit to the PRC and the foreign secretary's visit to Moscow and Eastern Europe will help to improve Pakistan-Soviet relations, and the nature of Pakistan-PRC relations will be better understood by the Soviets. Thus, any apprehension in this regard will be dispelled.

Majlis-e-Shoora Continues Budget Debate

GF261132 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 13 Jul 84 pp 1,8

[Text] Islamabad, July 12: The Majlis-e-Shoora continued its general debate on the national budget today in two sessions spread over nine hours and with more than 30 members taking part. Keen to register their views on the national issues, the members did not resist the chairman's decision to hold two sessions today — the last day of the week.

There were no fireworks as most of the members, while complaining of mounting corruption, inefficiency of the bureaucratic machinery, deteriorating law and order situation and the price hike, extended full support to the government's efforts to Islamise the national economy and establish interest-free banking. A number of speakers dwelt on the problems of their areas and demanded early action from the government to resolve them. Demands for giving more incentives to the investors and farmers were also raised and some members demanded that the government should push on with its nuclear programme without any fear and even produce a bomb if necessary for the defence of the country.

Some speakers were critical of what they described as the 'apologetic attitude' of the government towards India and called for a stronger posture. While opposing the increase in oil prices, the members hailed the previous session.

Dr Jazbi told the house that the government has taken a number of steps to provide job opportunities to doctors in the country.

Elaborating the steps, he said additional posts of doctors were being created for basic health units and rural health centres in the country. Every basic health unit will have one doctor. He further mentioned that a second shift will be started in headquar-

ters, district headquarters and teaching hospitals under a phased programme which was expected to go some way in providing employment opportunities to the unemployed doctors.

To a question from Ch. Mohammed Idris Taj, the minister expressed his inability to give the exact figure of unemployed doctors in the country.

Asked about the number of medical graduates who qualified during 1983 province-wide, the minister gave the following figures:

Punjab 1,728, NWFP 367, Baluchistan 53, and Sind 1,569. He also gave college-wise details of the qualified graduates during the last three years.

About the number of new posts created in each province during 1983 he said the figures were: Punjab 560, Sind 336, NWFP 211, Baluchistan 100, Northern areas and FATA [Frontier and Tribal Areas] 44 and Azad Kashmir 26.

Replying to a question, the production minister told the house that there was no doubt that there are presently some five to six thousand extra workers than the required capacity in the Pakistan steel mill. He said the government has no intention of slashing the number of workers in Pakistan steel as it would not only increase unemployment in the country but might trigger off an agitation on the eve of elections. He said only 1,353 workers of Pakistan steel had been laid off between 1981 and December 1984. The minister rejected the proposal that the domestic appliance unit located in Karachi should be disinvested because it had incurred a loss of Rs. 2.6 million during the year 1982-83. He said during the year it incurred loss, the factory remained closed for almost eight months on account of defective fans supplied by Siemens. Things were now being sorted out and the unit would soon start production of air conditioners and other appliances. The minister acknowledged in the house that PIDC [Pakistan Industry Development Corporation] was being converted into a holding company not because of the losses incurred by it but to give a commercial orientation to its working.

Replying to a question, Railway Minister Ghafoor Hoti told the house that a total number of 56 railway accidents took place during the year 1983-84 involving 41 passengers trains. The minister refused to share the members' concern over such a large number of accidents and said they were just nominal compared to the size of the railways. Out of these accidents, 23 were due to negligent driving, 15 to track defects, 16 to staff fault and two to defective points.

Postponement of Talks by India Questioned
GF261256 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 20 Jul 84 p 4

[Editorial: "Come September"]

[Text] The Indian Government's abrupt and unexpected cancellation of ministerial-level talks comes as an unpleasant and puzzling shock. In an announcement appearing on July 17, the sudden shelving of discussions on the no-war pact and a meeting of the Joint Commission, originally scheduled for July 18 and August 6 and now deferred until "after September," was accompanied by no clear explanation and has occurred in a political climate vitiated by unforeseen contradictions and confusion.

On the one hand, there have been recent indications of Delhi's cordiality, the sincerity of which is now highly suspect. For the SARC [South Asian Regional Cooperation] conference in the Maldives, for example, Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan was transported on an Indian Air Force plane along with his counterpart Foreign Minister Rao, at the time apparently a clear expression of rapprochement and neighbourliness. Similarly, Indian Minister for Information and Broadcasting H.K.L. Bhagat was bubbling with goodwill on his recent tour and indicated as late as July 14 that the now postponed talks were still on the cards as scheduled. It is natural to ask: What has happened since then?

On the other hand, preceding Tuesday's deferral of the discussions, Indian Ambassador K.D. Sharma stated tht the next two months would be the "most important in the history of Indo-Pakistan relations". Again due to the lack of any accompanying explanation, it can only be assumed that he knows more than the Indian Government is saying. Moreover, another indication of Indian intransigence was provided by the genial H.K.L. Bhagat himself, who mentioned that various members of the Indian Parliament had pressed for the postponement of his visit out of irritation over Pakistan media's reporting of events in India's troubled Punjab.

At the same time, New Delhi has published a White Paper on the Punjab crisis wherein it continues to make the same tiresome and baseless allegations of foreign involement in the Sikh agitation, even though it is forced to admit failure to find any substantiation whatsoever for its theory or to pinpoint any foreign power behind the trouble. Furthermore, Islamabad's decision not to extradite the Lahore hijackers has not pleased Indira — despite her own refusal of President Jayewardene's recent pleas for the extradition of 30 separatist Tamil guerrillas from India. Although it is said that "what's sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander," consistency has never been the guiding principle of Indira's foreign policy — expediency, yes; consistency, no.

"Come September," we are told, the talks will be back on track. Until then, are we to wait in bewilderment and growing scepticism about the sincerity of what increasingly seems to be merely bilateral lip-service?

Problem of Afghan Refugee Passports Viewed
GF261200 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 17 Jul 84 p 8

[By Saeed Qureshi]

[Text] Islamabad, July 16: All Afghan nationals who hold the status of refugees in Pakistan may be issued 'refugee passports' for travelling to other countries.

Such passports are already being issued by the governments of France, West Germany, Canada and the United States to

Afghan refugees who have sought political asylum there. The passport issued by these governments is a two-leaf document and bears the title 'For Afghan Refugees.'

At present, Afghan refugees who want to proceed abroad have to face a protracted procedure. Their stay permit in Pakistan is seldom treated as a proper passport. Additionally, the validity of this document is contested almost at every level.

It is against the backdrop of these impediments that, despite their intention to go to other countries, many Afghan refugees cannot do so. This also leads to their obtaining forged documents to facilitate their exit from Pakistan.

The immigration authorities in Rawalpindi and Islamabd were unable to give the number of passports issued to Afghan refugees against forged documents but they confirmed that every month, several cases of Afghan refugees applying for Pakistani passports against fake papers are handed over the the FIA [Federal Investigation Agency] for investigation.

Other quarters claimed that Afghan refugees could get a Pakistan indentity card and a passport in return for a payment of Rs. 10,000 to the racketeers preparing forged documents.

There is a widespread view among certain sections of the people that if the Afghan refugees are allowed to travel abroad, it will not only be helpful to the refugees, but will also lessen the financial burden on the Pakistan Government, which now has to look after nearly three million refugees.

DAWN Cites Petroleum Production Statistics

GF270936 Karachi DAWN in English 21 Jul 84 p 2

[Text] Karachi, July 20: Thirteen wells are producing 23,138 barrels of crude per day in the country, according to an official study.

Nine of the wells are located in Punjab and four in Sind. The highest production is from Meyal in Punjab with a daily average of 4,745 barrels and Khaskheli in Sind is producing 3,681 barrels per day. Tajedi and Tando Alam, both in Sind, are producing 3,500 and 2,000 barrels respectively.

Of the total production of oil in the country, the four wells in Sind are producing 12,110 barrels per day and the nine wells in Punjab are producing 11,028 barrels per day.

Of the 13 oil-producing wells, nine of them are joint ventures.

Khaur well in Punjab is producing the lowest quantity with only six barrels a day. This well was drilled in 1915 and is being operated by Pakistan Petroleum Ltd.

There are nine gas producing wells in the country which together produce a total of 1,014.178 mmcfd. [millionsof cubic feet daily]

The biggest gas-producing wells are located in Sui, with a capacity of 749,679 mmcfd and the second biggest is located in Mari, which is producing 162.736 mmcfd.

The state-owned OGDC [Oil and Gas Development Corporation] has discovered four gas fields at Tut, Sari-Hundi, Pirkoh and Dakhni, which together are producing 39.242 mmcfd.

Former Petroleum Minister on Oil Reserves

GF270942 Karachi DAWN in English 21 Jul 84 p 12

[Text] The former Petroleum Minister Rao Farman Ali said that oil reservoirs did exist in our belt but intensive exploratory activities are needed to discover.

He was talking to newsmen at a function "Meet the Press" at the local press club, organised by the Rawalpindi Union of Journalists.

When asked about the recent discoveries of new oil fields, the former minister said all these projects were launched by him, and were implemented by him. But unfortunately he did not get time to present the results before the nation.

Referring to the increase in the prices of oil and other petroleum products, he told newsmen that it was mainly due to the rapid increase in the value of dollar in which we have to pay the prices of oil.

When asked for the achievement of oil production during the current five-year plan, he said that the target should not be the "production" - the target should be the drilling, the exploratory activities.

Mr Farman Ali said that soon after taking over the charge of the Ministry of Petroleum he had expanded the exploratory activities in the length and breadth of the country. As a result he said, new oil fields were discovered at Dhurnal, Dakhani, Golarchi and Tando Alam.

Rao Farman Ali said that earlier the exploratory activities were confined to the area of Potohar only and all the four rigs were engaged in this area.

Later, he added, these were utilised in various parts of the country for exploration of oil and fortunately the efforts resulted in success and oil was discovered at various places.

However, he regretted, some quarters attempted to give the impression that there was no development in the exploratory activities during his tenure and all the discoveries were made by them later on. Referring to oil discovery at Tando Alam, he said, this oil field was discovered during his ministership but the announcement regarding this discovery was made later on intentionally to take this credit.

Rao Farman Ali declared that the election cell, constituted by the president to take measures for the holding of elections in the country was dissolved after the formation of the cabinet of PNA. [Pakistan National Alliance.]

It may be noted here that Rao Farman Ali was also a member of the said cell.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,800

LD261637 Tehran IRNA in English 1632 GMT 26 Jul 84

[Text] Tehran, July 26, IRNA — An intruding Iraqi war plane was shot down by one of the Air Force jet fighters of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran over the Persian Gulf waters at 1410 hours local time (1040 GMT) on Thursday, said the Joint Staff Command of the Iranian Armed Forces the same day.

In its communique, No 1,800 issued this evening, the Joint Staff Command added that the Islamic combatants also killed or wounded over 35 Iraqi troops throughout the battlefronts of the Iraqi-imposed war checking all enemy activities and movements during the preceding 24 hours.

In these operations, the Iranian defenders fired on the Iraqis' positions and their supply routes, destroying 18 enemy group bunkers and dug-outs, eight armament emplacements, two personnel-carrying vehicles, more than two watch posts and an engineering truck.

The communique concluded that the Iraqi long-range artillery fire was again directed at residential areas of the southern Iranian city of Abadan causing some damages to 13 houses and six shops throughout Wednesday.

Actions Detailed

LD261722 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1634 GMT 26 Jul 84

[Excerpt] Yesterday Islam's combatants, carrying out effective defensive operations, neutralized enemy activities and harrassing moves in the northwestern operational sector. In the Choman Mustafa region, 10 foxholes and 1 observation post of the Saddamist mercenaries were destroyed by our forces' fire. In the Piranshah, Sar Dasht and Hajj 'Umran operational regions, our fighting units controlled the enemy's supply routes and relocation operations and set ablaze two trucks carrying Saddamist forces.

On the western operational sector, by opening retaliatory fire on the enemy's positions and dispatching patrol groups, our combatants defended the areas under their responsibility and destroyed eight light and heavy weapons emplacements and an observations post of the aggressors. Enemy casualties in that region numbered 20 killed or wounded.

On the Abadan and Khorramshahr operational sector our forces opened fire on enemy positions west of the Arvand Rud. As a result, an enemy engineering excavator, 13 group and 1-man bunkers and several observation posts of the Saddamists were destroyed; at least 5 of their men were killed.

Iraqi Super Etendard Downed

LD261926 Tehran IRNA in English 1919 GMT 26 Jul 84

[Text] Tehran, July 26, IRNA — An Iranian jet fighter shot down an intruding Iraqi Super Etendard over the Persian Gulf Waters this afternoon, the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces reported tonight.

In its Communique No 1,800 issued earlier today, the Joint Staff had not identified the type of the Iraqi aircraft shot down at 14:10 hours local time (10:40 GMT).

The downed Super Etendard was one of five "leased" from the French Air Force by Iraq last year. Equipped with Exocet missiles, the planes were delivered to Iraq to attack ships in the Persian Gulf and spread tension in the region.

Opposition Leader Masud Rajavi on Government, War

PM261501 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 27 Jul 84 pp 34-35

[Interview with Iranian opposition leader Masud Rajavi by 'Alaf Zayn in London "last week"]

[Excerpts] *AL-HAWADITH*: There has been much talk recently about an imminent Iranian offensive, but so far neither it nor the predicted massive troop concentration has materialized. Some people attribute the delay to internal conflicts within Iran and the differences of opinion regarding the continuation of the war against Iraq. Others believe that the Iranian regime can no longer find the manpower and economic resources necessary for such an offensive, not to mention Iran's international isolation. What is your opinion?

Rajavi: There have been many rumors about this so-called offensive. It was said that the offensive would be launched on 1 Ramadan to enable the Iranian regime to exploit the religious feelings during the month of fasting and to mobilize the ranks which have been declining daily in zeal and number. Before the month of fasting began I said in Paris that the Iranian regime would not be able to mobilize and drum up the same zeal demonstrated by the Iranian forces and masses when the latest offensive was launched around the end of last February. The truth is that the Iranian troop concentrations predicted by various observers are highly exaggerated. Iran has only 196,000 troops along the entire Iraq-Iran border. Of these, 56,000 have been sent to quell the recent uprising in Kordestan. We and our friends in the national party of Kordestan are fighting and struggling jointly to bring down the Iranian regime. In other words the Iranian regime is able to mobilize only 140,000 troops. In fact there are many problems. They are the real reason for the postponement of the offensive.

AL-HAWADITH: What are these problems and what are their social and economic dimensions? Has the Khark Island siege contributed to the postponement of the offensive?

Rajavi: The Iranian regime's first and main problem is its obvious failure to mobilize the necessary army for such a strike. Some 2 days ago — and I am announcing this for the first time — I received a report from inside Iran. It gives a realistic idea of the crisis gripping the Iranian regime and shows that the regime has lost its popular base and its credibility. Shortly before the February offensive the Iranian regime was able to recruit 1,250 fighters from three towns in Azarbaijan. Now, for the past 2 months special Iranian units have been trying to recruit a similar number from the same towns, through promises and intimidation, but the Iranian regime managed to get only 37 volunteers

who, out of fear, were forced to respond to the war call, and what a war. The Iranian people now realize that the aim of the war is to divert the people's attention from Iran's severe crises.

There is another factor which makes it virtually impossible for Iran to mount its expected offensive. That factor is the shortage of arms and the fact that Iran's main sources of arms are no longer giving it the weapons and war equipment it wants. I have learned that some European governments have stopped selling arms to Iran. Furthermore, and as you mmentioned in your question, the Khark siege has led to a drop in Iran's oil exports.

AL-HAWADITH: What has the Iranian opposition achieved so far? Has it benefited from this popular disenchantment with the regime, and what has it done to cultivate the fertile base you have talked about? It has been said that the opposition has been unable to fulfill its proclaimed slogans because of a lack of response in Iran and because the Iranians are now apprehensive about grand slogans.

Rajavi: With its increasing isolation, the Iranian regime is becoming more and more alert, cautious, and determined to quell national resistance. It has mobilized the entire national guard for the purpose of destroying the national resistance we brought out into the open 3 June, which marked the 3d anniversary of our movement and which we declared to be Martyrs' Day. The Iranian regime would not have been able to survive without the war.

AL-HAWADITH: In the event of Khomeyni's death, how would the opposition treat the Iranian regime? In other words, is it an opposition to individuals, as claimed, or to an existing political system with all its institutions and ways of government?

Rajavi: There is a gulf of blood between us and the present regime. We will not be able to cross it easily. It is not opposition only to individuals. We have lost 40,000 martyrs, and 20,000 of our fighters are in prison. The country is in a state of complete collapse. Massacres are committed in the name of Islam. Even young children have been thrown into prison. Schoolgirls have been forced to offer their young bodies as fodder for land mines. We have covered half the distance and we will soon reach our destination.

AL-HAWADITH: Where to? What is your alternative to the regime if it falls? It has been said that what is happening in Iran is much bigger and much more serious than a traditional conflict between government and opposition and that there is a major plot aimed at changing the map of Iran and dividing it into small sectarian states, thus transferring to Iran the big eruption which began in Lebanon. Do you have a plan for filling the vacuum which will follow the regime's downfall? How true are these speculations?

Rajavi: I have not officially heard of any such plan to fragment Iran into small states, but I agree with you that such a major collapse would occur if there was no opposition to fill the vacuum after the regime's downfall. I consider the resistance to be the pivot or the backbone of a future united Iran. Fragmentation of the homeland would be the logical outcome if there was no resistance. If the Iranian regime lasts much longer, the result will be the same. Each part will seek independence to escape destruction.

AL-HAWADITH: What are your plans in the resistance's National Council? What arrangements have you made to avoid such a dangerous vacuum?

Rajavi: The National Defense Council has prepared a meticulous plan to be implemented when the regime falls. The aim is to ward off the danger you speak of. Our first step will be to form a transitional government. Its task will be to hold free general elections to produce a constituent assembly. After the constituent assembly elections the people's representatives will choose the new government and constitution.

AL-HAWADITH: You have not told me anything about your plan for preventing partition and fragmentation.

Rajavi: As National Defense Council members and Mojahedin Movement officials, we have formed an axis capable of keeping Iran united. Without it there would be a big vacuum. The top priority in our protective plan is to stop the Iraq-Iran war. We have agreed with Iraq on a peace plan which we have accepted as a basis for a solution satisfactory to both sides.

AL-HAWADITH: What are the details of the plan?

Rajavi: First a cease-fire followed by the withdrawal of Iraqi and Iranian forces to the international borders of the 1975 Algiers agreement. That would be followed by an exchange of prisoners of war and then recourse to an international court to settle war claims. The Iraqi side and the Iranian side, represented by us, have agreed to accept international observers to consolidate these peace steps. Finally, a peace treaty will be drawn up.

Kuwaiti Paper Reports Genscher Carried U.S. Proposal

GF261503 Doha QNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 26 Jul 84

[Text] Kuwait, 26 Jul (QNA) — Press reports noted here today that FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher was carrying, during his visit to Tehran early this week, U.S. proposals pertaining to the amelioration of U.S.-Iranian relations. These proposals include U.S. provision of military equipment, spare parts, and other items to Iran after normalization of relations between the two countries.

Quoting Arab sources, the Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-WATAN* reported in its issue today that Genscher conveyed another U.S. proposal focusing on revival of the Islamic alliance which included Iran, Turkey, and Pakistan with the pretext of confronting Soviet expansion in the region. Washington also set a condition that Tehran settle the differences between the current regime and a number of the opposition members abroad, including former defense minister Ahmad Madani. These sources stressed that the Western move begun by Genscher comes at a time when there are reports on shipments of U.S. planes and military equipment to Iran.

The U.S.-Iranian relations deteriorated in 1979 following the holding of the American hostages in the U.S. Embassy in Tehran.

Indian Minister Calls Tehran Visit 'Positive'

LD261733 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Jul 84

[Text] This afternoon the deputy external affairs minister of India left Tehran for New Delhi after a 2-day official visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran. During this visit he submitted the message of Mrs Gandhi, the Indian prime minister and the president of the Nonaligned Movement, to Mr Khamene'i, the president.

Before leaving Tehran, in an interview with reporters the deputy external affairs minister of India described his visit to Tehran as very positive and announced: Our discussions were very useful for our bilateral relations. He said: Mrs Gandhi, in her capacity as the Indian prime minister and the president of the Nonaligned Movement, has frequently expressed her views about the use of chemical weapons in the war. She has repeatedly said that she deplores the use of chemical weapons.

He added: During my stay in Tehran, the bilateral relations between Iran and India in the political and economic fields were discussed. I hope that in the next session of the joint commission which will be held in New Delhi at the level of foreign ministers from the two countries these discussions will be followed up, and we will be able to discuss further the various avenues for the expansion of relations between the two countries.

Concerning the imposed war, the deputy external affairs minister of India said: We are worried about the Iran-Iraq war, and we sincerely hope that this war will come to a just end.

Deputy Minister Heads Delegation to East Europe

LD231536 Tehran IRNA in English 1445 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] Tehran, July 23, IRNA — A 12-man delegation headed by deputy commerce minister for foreign trade, Mojtaba Khosorw-Taj left Tehran today for official visits to Hungary, Bulgaria, Poland, and Czechoslovakia.

The delegation is composed of representatives from several government organisations, and is expected to conduct follow-up talks in relation with earlier understandings between Iran and the said countries in the area of trade exchanges and agricultural and industrial cooperation.

Repentent Groups Condemn 'Superpower Plots'

LD231047 Tehran IRNA in English 0950 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] Urumiyeh, July 23, IRNA — A group of 3000 ex-members of the counterrevolutionary grouplets who have repented their past deeds, staged a march in the streets of the city Sunday in condemnation of plots of superpowers and their mercenaries in Kordestan Province.

The demonstrators chanted death to the U.S., death to the U.S.S.R., and death to the outlawed groups such as the Kumeleh. They also urged those who have been deceived by the grouplets to repent their actions and return to Islam.

The marchers have been attending a seminar of repented members of the grouplets in West Azarbaijan and Kordestan Provinces.

Speaking in the seminar, the commander of the Hamzeh Seyyed Ash-Shohada Headquarters, Izadi, talked about the crimes of the counterrevolutionary elements in the area and urged them to surrender. Some one hundred of those who have repented were given permanent letter of pardon here yesterday.

IRNA: Kuwait Turns Away Iraqi Deserters

LD231956 Tehran IRNA in English 1703 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] Tehran, July 23, IRNA — The border authorities of Kuwait and Iraq have recently enacted drastic security measures to control the entrance to Kuwait of Iraqi military deserters. These measures are being taken following the ever-increasing desertion of soldiers from the Iraqi Armed Forces and their taking refuge in the neighbouring countries.

In the framework of this decision, Kuwaiti border officials now carefully inspect trucks entering the country which carry fodder and vegetables via Abdeli-Safwan border region. Recently, the Abdeli officials have discovered a fodder truck carrying 16 deserters of the Iraqi Armed Forces who had hidden themselves among the consignment. Kuwaiti officials arrested the truck driver, a Turkish national, together with the 16 persons who had tried to enter Kuwait. The country's officials are anxious about the increase of Iraqi refugees illegally entering the country and have refrained from publishing any reports in this regard. Only the Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-QABAS* published some pictures of the truck and a report in this regard without mentioning the nationality of the persons.

Observers have expressed concern over the decision of Kuwaiti officials to turn these 16 persons over to the Iraqi regime because such a measure will undoubtedly result in their execution.

France's Attitude Towards Resident Muslims Discussed

LD240839 Tehran IRNA in English 0711 GMT 24 Jul 84

[Text] Tehran, July 24, IRNA — Muslims seem likely to have to cope with even less friendly conduct of the French Government in the future. The coming to office of Laurent Fabius as France's new prime minister portends harder days ahead for the four million Muslim community in that country.

Doubtless, Laurent Fabius, himself a Zionist, feels inconvenient for the presence of a Muslim community in that country. Mitterrand, too, shares the same feeling with him for he sees Muslims as responsible for a large part of a critical situation in that country.

The attitude is seen in other French officials as well. Said Gaston Defferre, France's ex-minister of the interior and decentralization in an interview he gave to *LES TEMPS MODERNES*, "Muslim fundamentalists provide money and supplies to terrorists in France." He also accused the Islamic Republic of aggressive propaganda.

The statement of Mitterrand's ex-minister of the interior reflects the official stand of his government on the Muslim community in that country. The countermeasure by the Paris government has been the establishment of a government-controlled Muslim institution. The institution named French Muslim Association is to function within the control of the government to ensure that nothing is done by Muslims in that country which might in any way jeopardize the interests of the French Government.

The AGENCE FRANCE PRESS said in a dispatch from Paris some days ago that an imam Mohammad Balmaki has established France's Muslim Association in collaboration with another 40 leaders of Friday mass prayers of Muslim community in that country. He has made it clear that the association is solely a religious institution without concern about political affairs or the business of the state.

Balmaki argues that the Paris mosque has fallen short of elevating the prestige of Muslims in France, and has said that among his immediate goals he intends to enhance the prestige of Muslims before the French officials.

The French daily *LIBERATION* says that for many years Balmaki served with the French Army and that in 1976 he started out on his religious activities and then was leader of Muslims' mosque in the French city of Montpellier. He went to Paris about 18 months ago and tried to continue his activities there, but according to his statement he was not permitted to engage in any activity there.

The French daily *LE MATIN* writes that Islam should not be confused with fanaticism and brutal acts in the name of religion, and Balmaki has said that the Muslim association in that country will make sure to check people against acting against the principles of Islam in the name of Islam. He claims to be the only Muslim leader in France elected on strength of the approval of more than one hundred leaders of mass prayers.

Muslims in France believe that the Muslim Association is established in that country with the idea of ensuring a government footing in the Paris mosque and a close surveillance over the activities of Muslims in that country. They are being antagonized by the French Government solely for reason of faith, and have come under increased pressure by Mitterand's government in the wake of attacks by Lebanese Muslims upon French forces in Lebanon.

Some time ago a civil court in Lyon denied permit for construction of a mosque in that city solely because its minaret was going to be more than 30 metres high. In another instance the Gaullists opposed construction of a mosque in the outskirts of Paris.

But Muslims in France are not alone in their plight. For a much similar treatment is given them in many other countries which reflects the official stand of governments about Muslims in those countries. Despite that, however, the Western governmentshave invariably asserted their commitment to the human rights while they continue aid unpopular governments in the Third World countries.

New Tugboat Arrives at Khark Island

LD251450 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Jul 84

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, the 15th Sha'ban [date of birth of the Prophet] tug arrived in Khark this morning and docked at one of the island's jetties, during a ceremony attended by Khark region oil company officials.

The 4,700-hp tug has a very well equipped [word indistinct] and fire-fighting system. The tug was purchased by the Oil Ministry from Japan at a cost of $3.7 million. It will perform shipping services for the oil company as well as fire-fighting and tanker docking functions.

Radio Iran Cites KEYHAN on Dismissal of Commanders

GF231442 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Text] According to *KEYHAN*, which is published in London, a group of military commanders fighting in the war against Iraq have been dismissed on Khomeyni's order. The report was published on the front page of the latest issue and adds: The majority of these commanders were from the Guards Corps.

According to the *KEYHAN* report, the commanders of guard units in Ramhormoz, Shushtar, Izeh, Dezful, Mehran, Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, and Shadgan were among those dismissed. The number, according to the sources close to the Armed Forces, is between 200-270 individuals.

KEYHAN published in London adds: Also 50-60 Armed Forces officers who have been on duty on the front lines have been recalled to Tehran without any further explanation. A group of these recalled officers are among the hezbollahis whose presence on the fronts had angered and disheartened other officers.

According to sources close to the Armed Forces, the new wave of dismissals came as a result of the request by Brigadier General Qasem Zahirnezhad, the chief of staff of Khomeyni. According to *KEYHAN*, Zahirnezhad was totally fed up with the interference of the hezbollahis in military affairs and the expensive and costly tactics of the Guards Corps commanders.

Free Voice of Iran: 41 Executed in Tehran

GF231701 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 23 Jul 84

[Excerpts] According to our correspondent, the Khomeyni regime has executed 41 individuals, including Habib Khabiri who was a member of the Iranian National football team.

The Mojahedin-e Khalq organization in a statement issued in Paris announced that 41 political prisoners were executed in Tehran during the past week. The Islamic Republic regime has refrained from reporting this news.

Resistance Attack Near Baneh Kill 10 'Mercenaries'
GF251623 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian
1330 GMT 25 Jul 84

[Text] Opposition elements in Paris said yesterday that the armed resistance against the regime launched a surprise attack near the city of Baneh last Wednesday and killed 10 of the regime's mercenaries and wounded several others. The same report added that the Kurdish forces in another attack killed two Khomeyni guards in Sar Dasht and wounded several others.

According to reports issued by opposition groups in Paris, roads in Kordestan were mined by elements against the regime. Consequently, a personnel carrier belonging to the Khomeyni regime was blown up on (Mahiran) road, killing all of the 10 occupants. Similarly, on the Sar Dasht-Baneh highway, an automobile hit a mine and the four occupants were injured. The report added that the Khomeyni regime has sent a number of Guards to aid its mercenaries in the region in dealing with military operations of the opponents of the regime. The Guards in a brutal attack on defenseless people killed three farmers in (Mahiran) and wounded four other civilians. Similarly, they arrested a number of farmers in Kukan.

Briefs

Lavan Island Jetty OperationaL — Tehran, July 22, IRNA — A floating jetty ordered by the Iranian sub-continental oil company went into operation off Lavan Island in the Persian Gulf, 52-kms west of Kish Island and 11-kms south of the coast line, the Persian daily *KEYHAN* reported today. In a report with a Khark Island dateline, the paper said the jetty had been ordered last year and sailed towards the Persian Gulf last week. Two ships at a time could float from the 2.2 million-dollar jetty, it said. [Text] IRNA in English 1734 GMT 22 Jul 84 LD]

Afghan Identity Cards — The Interior Ministry has announced that a new scheme to identify Afghan emigrants shall come into effect throughout the country as of first Mordad [23 July]. All Afghan brothers and sisters are therefore asked to cooperate with the officials, help to implement the scheme, and report to assigned districts in the various governorships in order to change their identity cards. To change the present identity cards, the following documents are required of individuals over the age of 2 years in all Afghan emigrant families: six copies of a photograph, as well as all their previous identity cards; the correct present address along with complete details and documents substantiating it, including all available documents they had brought from Afghanistan pertaining to their Afghan nationality. Needless to say, those Afghans who fail to report to receive their new identity cards will be considered offenders and will be dealt with in accordance with regulations. [Text] [Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 22 Jul 84 LD]